

ghalugara (large holocaust) In 1762, one third of the Sikh population was killed in three days.

In 1765, Sikhs again established Sikh rule in several Sikh missals (free cantonal republics) as well as the principalities of Patiala, Nabha, Faridkote, Kapurthala, Jind, and Kalsia. This lasted until 1799 when Maharajah Ranjit Singh established Khalsa Raj in Punjab by uniting the missals and principalities. They marched into the capital city of Lahore and hoisted the Sikh flag, manifesting the spirit of liberty reaffirmed at the Vaisakhi of 1699. This Khalsa Raj lasted until 1849 when the British conquered the Sub-continent. This Sikh nation of Punjab was recognized by most of the Western powers of the time. The contemporary struggle to liberate the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, is part of the same historical process.

Maharajah Ranjit Singh's rule was the Golden Age for Punjab. Sikhs destroyed Mogul rule and stopped invasions from the Afghan rulers to the west. Under the command of Hari Singh Nerwa, Sikhs defeated the Afghans and occupied Kabul. Nelwa left Kabul after securing the promise from the Afghans that they would not cross east of the Khyber Pass. Maharajah Ranjit Singh and Hari Singh Nerwa invaded Kashmir, which was part of Afghanistan, and annexed it to Punjab in 1819. India and Pakistan owe a debt of gratitude to the Sikhs, as both countries claim Kashmir as their own.

During Maharajah Ranjit Singh's rule, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians all had a share of power alongside the Sikhs. All of them were represented as ministers in his Cabinet. The Faqir brothers, who were Muslims, were trusted ministers in the inner circle of Maharajah Ranjit Singh. General Ventura, a Christian, was in charge of the artillery. The Hindu Dogras (Dhian Singh Dogra and his brother Lal Singh Dogra) wielded enormous power with Maharajah Ranjit Singh.

The Dogras betrayed the Sikhs and conspired with the British in the defeat of the Sikh army.

When Hari Singh Nalwa took a lone bullet from an Afghan, he wrote his last letter in blood rather than ink to bid his last fateh to Maharajah Ranjit Singh. Nalwa had previously asked for more troops but those letters were intercepted by the Dogra brothers, who kept the requests to themselves instead of telling Maharajah Ranjit Singh. They wanted Hari Singh Nalwa to be killed.

Nalwa instructed the messenger to give his letter to Maharajah Ranjit Singh personally and to no one else. The messenger arrived early in the morning.

Maharajah Ranjit Singh and Dhian Singh Dogra were out for a morning walk. When the messenger tried to give the letter to Maharajah Ranjit Singh, Dogra tried to intercept it. The messenger told Maharajah Ranjit Singh that he was instructed to give the letter to him personally. When Maharajah Ranjit Singh read the letter, he was so angry with Dhian Singh Dogra that he hit Dogra with his water bucket. Then he instructed the army to get ready to march towards Afghanistan.

They arrived at the River Attack. It was flooded. It had overflowed its banks. The Sikhs wanted to wait until the flood was over, but Maharajah Ranjit Singh led his horse into the river. The water went down and the Sikhs crossed the river. Maharajah Ranjit Singh fought the Afghans and defeated them. That stopped the incursion of the Afghans into the Sikh territory of Punjab.

After the demise of Maharajah Ranjit Singh in 1839, the British infiltrated their agents like the Dogra brothers and others

into the Sikh Raj. Sikh rulers were murdered, one after the other. The Sikhs gave the British a tough fight in the Anglo-Sikh wars, but the Sikhs lost the war through the betrayal of the Dogra brothers and the British annexed Punjab in 1849.

The Sikh Nation's desire for sovereignty has not diminished. Sikhs always recite the couplet 'Raj Kare Ga Khalsa' after their morning and evening Ardas (prayers.) The Sikhs actively participated in the Indian struggle for independence from the British. Although Sikhs were just 1.5 percent of the population, they gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices in the freedom struggle. 2,125 Indians were executed during the freedom struggle. Of these, more than 1,500 were Sikhs. Out of 2,645 exiled by the British, 2,147 were Sikhs.

At the time of India's independence in 1947, the Hindus of India and the Muslims of Pakistan received sovereign, independent states. Sikhs were supposed to be a party to the arrangement and receive their own state as well. But the Sikh leadership of the time accepted the false promise of Jawahar Lal Nehru (reaffirmed in resolutions of the Indian National Congress) that they would have 'the glow of freedom' in Punjab and no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. On this basis Sikhs took their share with India.

However, soon after the independence of India, the Sikhs discovered that they had been betrayed. The Indian leaders had no intention of giving them what they had promised. Home Minister Patel shamefully sent out a memo describing Sikhs as a 'criminal tribe'. The repression of the Sikh Nation began with that memo and continues to this day.

The time has come for Sikhs to break free of the repressive Indian regime. This is the only way that their human rights will ever be respected. And the world is beginning to notice. In the United States Congress, the Congressional Record is serving as a vehicle to keep an accurate record of the repression and to defeat India's effort to whitewash the situation and the history of the Sikhs and other minorities. The Congressional Record carries repeated calls for a free and fair plebiscite on the independence of Khalistan and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. There are also repeated calls for a cut off of U.S. aid to India until human rights are respected. The pressure is mounting for human rights and freedom in South Asia. How soon will India collapse under the pressure? It is only a matter of time.

#### RECOGNIZING CHERYL HALE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cheryl Hale of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Cheryl has enjoyed a successful banking career spanning 28 years and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

Cheryl truly built her career from the ground up. At the age of 22, Cheryl already had a family to support, yet she had little education and experience. She took the initiative and obtained her General Education Degree. She then took her first job working as a bookkeeper, while she began taking college classes at night. In 1990, Cheryl graduated Summa Cum Laude from Missouri Western State College with a degree in Business Administration.

As a member of the community, Cheryl has been a major advocate of the "Profit in Education" program. She has audited books for several Parents and Teachers Association's in the area, and served on the boards of Band Boosters and The Coalition for Achievement. Currently, she serves on the Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board and is very active in the Pony Express Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Cheryl Hale. Her commitment to education, business, and the community are truly remarkable. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chatham Township, in Morris County, NJ a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On September 9, 2006, the good citizens of Chatham Township are commemorating their bicentennial anniversary celebration with a day long extravaganza featuring a Fireman's Parade and an old-fashioned country fair.

In 1806 the Commonwealth of New Jersey officially incorporated the 23 square miles of land to the north and east of the Great Swamp and west of the Passaic River as the Township of Chatham. It originally included the areas that are now the boroughs of Chatham, Madison and Florham Park. The coming of the Morris and Essex Railroad in 1837 led to sharp increases in the population of the township which resulted in incorporating Chatham, Madison and Florham Park as separate boroughs.

In the late 1870s and 1880s the area became a center of the rose-growing industry. The specialty of one of the greenhouses was the American Beauty rose with a 5-foot-long stem. At Christmas they were sent to European royalty. Fifty were also sent to Queen Victoria in recognition of her golden anniversary.

After a 5-year construction ban during World War II, large farms gave way to luxurious home sites. Former rose farms became two major shopping centers at the corner known as Hickory Tree, named for a hickory tree planted during President James Madison's term.

In 1959 the Port Authority of New Jersey and New York considered the Great Swamp to be the ideal location for a major metropolitan airport. Through the massive efforts of area residents, the Great Swamp was secured through donations as a federally protected wilderness area now known as the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge, a national treasure.

High above the Passaic River on the east side of town, the Little Red School House was built in 1860. A school until 1928, the building eventually became the property of the township and housed the police and administrative offices until 1988. Today the historic building appropriately houses the Township Museum and Historical Society.

Today Chatham Township consists of 9 square miles housing 10,000 people. The